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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

JUNE 20, 2024

Drag Bingo at The SPACE Completes Greenbelt's Emerald City Pride Events

by Daniel Thies

Rounding out Saturday's Greenbelt Emerald City Pride events was an evening of Drag Bingo hosted at The SPACE Free Art For All in Beltway Plaza. Dozens of couples attended the 21-and-over event, with drag performer D'Manda Martini serving as the caller.

With free admission and a beginner-friendly speed, the event was welcoming to everyone who was bingo-curious. Martini kept the tone light by mixing in jokes and anecdotes between bingo numbers and singing musical numbers between rounds. More than a few times, the players excitedly called out a premature bingo, only to realize that they still needed one or more squares filled.



Drag Performer Ms. D'Manda Martini sings a show tune for bingo players at The SPACE.

Because the stakes were low and everyone was having fun, moments like those became a welcome comedic hiccup throughout the rounds of bingo.

Toward the end of the event, Martini read out raffle winners for those who donated money for the event. Shaymar Higgs, found-

er and executive director of The SPACE, thanked everyone for coming out to the various Emerald City Pride events. It was invigorating to see the planning pay off with a day full of enthusiasm. Higgs' mother joined in thanking the attendants; in an emotional moment she recalled when Higgs came out

to her, and she let him know that she loves and accepts him. Seeing that his community loves and accepts him, too, gives her great joy, she said.

Those who are 21 or older and can attend the next Drag Bingo event in Greenbelt, can catch Martini at the New Deal Café every third Thursday evening. For those looking forward to taking part in the next LGBTQIA+ events across Greenbelt, Higgs recommends marking October 11 for National Coming Out Day.

City's Vision Zero Application Follows International Trend

by Cathie Meetre and Anna Bedford-Dillow

A grant application to fund a Vision Zero study in Greenbelt was mentioned in the News Review's April 18 issue in coverage of the city's budget. At that time staff were preparing for the Vision Zero grant application, "modeled after an international effort to achieve zero fatalities and serious injuries on the roads by 2030."

Objectives

Vision Zero originated in Sweden, sparked by an accident in 1995 in which five young people died when their car hit the concrete base of a street light after skidding on a turn in rainy weather. The objective of Vision Zero is to eliminate road deaths or serious injuries to both car riders and pedestrians. While this may seem like pie in the sky given the approximately 43,000

U.S. road fatalities in 2021, participating Baltic countries see tantalizing evidence that it's possible. In 2019, both Helsinki and Oslo (cities of about 1.3 to 1.5 million people) had zero pedestrian fatalities and in Oslo just one driver died. In comparison, Dallas, Texas, also has about 1.3 million people, and between 2016 and 2020 there were 286 pedestrian fatalities, over 70 per year. Greenbelt is tiny in comparison, but has also had its share of fatalities: around three per year.

A New Perspective

The shift in thinking is that it isn't just drivers who need to step up to safe driving – obey the rules, not drink and drive and so on – it also is the authorities who design and build roads who need to design to minimize the destruction that takes place when drivers or pedestrians blunder.

Vision Zero makes the point that in air and train transportation, providers of the infrastructure must obey stringent requirements about the safety built into their infrastructure. Road transportation, however, lays the blame on the users of the transportation system when there are accidents – and barely considers the risk involved in the physical layout of the roads.

Shared Responsibility

Vision Zero, increasingly

Fire Dept. Staffing Plan 'Temporary', ALS Ambulance to be at Greenbelt

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



"You have to have conversations that are affecting everyone in the open in some form or fashion ... not just telling people, 'We made this decision and it's coming up in three weeks,'" said Takisha James, Mayor of Bladensburg (standing in back, light blue shirt).

Prince George's County Fire Chief Tiffany Green recently announced a plan to reallocate all career firefighters and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff at four Prince George's County fire departments: Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, Bowie-Bel Air and Bunker Hill. The effective date is Sunday, June 30. Since then, the biggest development has been a guarantee of an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance stationed at Greenbelt. "We are staffing a paramedic ambulance that has a paramedic and an EMT on it and that will be sta-

tioned for our peak hours from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week here at [Greenbelt]," confirmed Prince George's County Deputy Fire Chief James McClelland, speaking in Greenbelt on Wednesday, June 12. "Call volume dramatically increases every day close to 11 o'clock and dies down at 11 p.m. So, during that timeframe we will have an ALS unit here responding to the calls and needs of the town of Greenbelt and the surrounding areas." In addition, a basic ambulance

See FIRE DEPT., page 10

Emerald City Holds Pride Parade

by Daniel Thies



Pride stickers are handed out as the Pride Parade makes its way down Gardenway.



Carla Gordon, shown with performer Coco, thanks parade attendees for honoring Ric Gordon's memory.

Last Saturday's Greenbelt Emerald City Pride events kicked off with a morning Pride Parade. At the Spellman Overpass, members of the Greenbelt Honk! Situation made sure their instruments were in tune, and supportive families sporting LGBTQIA+ Pride flags and local political leaders came together. With over 100 people assembled around 11:30 a.m., the event organizers and politicians gave some final remarks. Carla Gordon thanked everyone for showing up and keeping the spirit of Ric Gordon alive. State Senator Alonzo Washington joined her, saying that the swell of people present is proof that the impact of the late city councilmember is still present in the community, as he was a major force behind the annual event. State Delegate Nicole Williams was happy to see Pride being celebrated here, along with many other cities across Maryland. State Delegate Ashanti Martinez spoke to how heartening this event was for him, as the first

openly LGBTQIA+ delegate to represent Prince George's County in the General Assembly. Mayor Emmett Jordan gave thanks on behalf of the Greenbelt City Council for the amount of effort that went into running the event.

Around 11:40 a.m., the parade began its procession down Gardenway with music, flags, banners, streamers, costumes and bubbles. The full assembly was nearly half a block in length,

See PARADE, page 16

What Goes On

Monday, June 24
No Council Meeting
(Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference)

Wednesday, June 26
No Council Meeting

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for more information.

VISION ZERO
Shared Responsibility
Vision Zero, increasingly
See VISION ZERO, page 12

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for Kind Deed

Today, I was eating lunch at IHOP with a group of fellow retirees – people I worked with, some for many years. We had a nice time, exchanging stories of events long past and making new discoveries about how our paths intersected years before we met each other on the job. We were almost finished when the most amazing thing happened. A group sharing our corner of IHOP was leaving and a child in the group stepped to our table and told one of us they were paying for his lunch in honor of Father's Day. He was so surprised he may not have fully expressed how much he appreciated that gift. But there was more. After they left, the waitresses told us they had paid for all our meals! Since we did not know who they were, we cannot personally express our gratitude. I hope they can see this note in the Greenbelt News

Review and know we felt truly honored by their generosity.
Joan Dunham



Greenbelt's 2024 Outstanding Citizen

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival is only 10 weeks away, so volunteers on the Festival Committee are working hard to prepare. Since 1973, each Festival includes recognition of that year's Outstanding Citizen: someone in Greenbelt whose unpaid volunteer efforts have made Greenbelt a better place.

Volunteerism is the essence of our Greenbelt community. The

See LETTERS, page 6

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Bikeriders

The film captures a rebellious time in America when the culture and people were changing. After a chance encounter at a local bar, strong-willed Kathy (Jodie Comer) is inexorably drawn to Benny (Austin Butler), the newest member of Midwestern motorcycle club the Vandals led by the enigmatic Johnny (Tom Hardy). Much like the country around it, the club begins to evolve, transforming from a gathering place for local outsiders into a dangerous underworld of violence, forcing Benny to choose between Kathy and his loyalty to the club.

I Saw the TV Glow

Teenager Owen is just trying to make it through life in the suburbs when his classmate introduces him to a mysterious late-night TV show, a vision of a supernatural world beneath their own. In the pale glow of the television, Owen's view of reality begins to crack.

Tuesday

A mother (Julia Louis-Dreyfus, in a moving performance) and her teenage daughter (Lola Petticrew) must confront Death when it arrives in the form of an astonishing talking bird. From debut filmmaker Daina O. Pusić, Tuesday is a heart-rending fairy tale about the echoes of loss and finding resilience in the unexpected. Said New York Times critic Jeannette Catsoulis, "In this fantastical first feature from the Croatian filmmaker Daina O. Pusic, striking special effects and a richly textured sound design lend a cosmic chill to a simple story of maternal grief."

Nepal America International Film Festival

Sponsored by the Nepal-America Film Society, the festival presents a diverse array of films, encompassing features, documentaries, animations, experimental works and shorts from Nepal, America, South Asia and around the world. Highlights include films from the Global Peace Film Festival Florida in the Special Sidebar Section and a focus on films from Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia in the DMV Close-up Section.

In the Mood for Love

In 1962, journalist Chow Mo-wan (Tony Leung Chiu Wai) and his wife move into a Hong Kong apartment, but Chow's spouse is often away on business. Before long, the lonely Chow makes the acquaintance of the alluring Su Li-zhen (Maggie Cheung Man-yuk), whose own significant other also seems preoccupied with work. As the two friends realize their respective partners are cheating on them, they begin to fall for one another; however, neither wants to stoop to the level of the unfaithful spouses.

Trolls Band Together

After being friends, Poppy (Anna Kendrick) and Branch (Justin Timberlake) are now, finally, a couple. As they grow closer, Poppy discovers that Branch has a secret past. He was once part of her favorite boyband phenomenon, BroZone, with his four brothers. BroZone disbanded when Branch was still a baby, as did the family, and Branch hasn't seen his brothers since. When Branch's bro Floyd is kidnapped for his musical talents by a pair of nefarious pop-star villains – Velvet and Veneer – Branch and Poppy embark on a harrowing and emotional journey to reunite the other brothers and rescue Floyd from a fate even worse than pop-culture obscurity.

4th of July Publication Deadlines

See box on page 14



The Old Curmudgeon



The air conditioning repairman says he'll be here in two weeks ...

- Izzy Parker, News Review, July 22, 1999

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

Greenbelt Concert Band Performs Patriotic Tunes

Come hear the Greenbelt Concert Band perform patriotic and inspirational tunes at the Mormon Visitor Center, 9900 Stoneybrook Dr, Kensington, Md., on Monday, July 1 at 7 p.m.

The Greenbelt Concert Band is a volunteer adult musical organization dedicated to providing quality musical performances for the citizens of the City of Greenbelt and surrounding areas. The band performs for civic and charitable activities, including concerts for veteran's groups, retirement communities, and nursing homes. This concert is free and open to the general public.



Community Giveaway Saturday, June 22, 3 p.m.

Favor's Table is giving away food, new shoes, clothes, dish detergent, diapers, bras, underwear, socks, hygiene kits and household items. These include new and gently used items. Kids must be present to receive shoes. To receive diapers, bring the baby's birth certificate or your insurance cards. Come with your bags. The venue is Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 6905 Greenbelt Rd.

For more information, contact Kehinde Chol at kennychol@yahoo.com.

Shakespeare in the Park At Greenbelt Park

"What fools these mortals be!" cries Puck. See just how foolish they are as Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks brings the delightful comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream to Greenbelt Park on Thursday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Set in an enchanted forest near the fictional town of Athens, Md., this free 90-minute play explores themes of love, illusion and the unpredictable nature of desire as it weaves together the stories of four young lovers, an amateur acting troupe and mischievous fairies.

Bring a lawn chair and a picnic and enjoy the bard under the stars, sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Visit pgparks.com/event_list/shakespeare-in-the-parks for more information.



Greenbelt Access Television June 22, Sat - June 28, Fri

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)

Streaming on www.greenbeltaccesstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Featured Production (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)

The Real Juneteenth

The Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee, Greenbelt Museum, and Sandy Spring Slave Museum teamed up last year to bring a very special presentation to Greenbelt on the meaning of Juneteenth. In the presentation, educator and historian Reynauld Smith shares his family history and personal ties to Juneteenth.

New This Month

Greenbelt Community Orchestra at Greenbelt Cinema

In this performance, the Greenbelt Community Orchestra gave Greenbelt Cinema moviegoers an exclusive performance of the score from 1939 documentary "The City", prior to the screening!

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check greenbeltaccesstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube for new video productions.

Jewelry Sale Returns At Mishkan Torah

After an interruption by Covid, Mishkan Torah is again holding its Jewelry Sale. It will take place on Sunday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with handbags and scarves, as well as many new items. Mishkan Torah is located at 10 Ridge Road.

Rummage Sale At St. Hugh's

On Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Hugh of Grenoble Church will hold a rummage sale, with furniture, jewelry, linens, books, toys and more on offer.

Lunch and some homemade baked goods will be available. Admission is free.

Greenbelt Forest Preserve Holds Board Meeting

The Greenbelt Forest Preserve Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, June 27 at 7 p.m. at Public Works. Agenda items include maglev update, deer enclosure, Sunrise Tract Trail proposal and Greenbriar Preserve: outreach to condos and Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Golden Age Club

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Community Center, Room 201. Guests and prospective members are always welcome.

There will be BINGO on June 26.



Pride Day at Museum

On Sunday, June 23, from 1 to 5 p.m., the Greenbelt Museum at 10-B Crescent Road will host a day celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community. All are welcome. There will be free short tours of the Museum's historic house, a craft for kids, information on how to be an ally and more. Staff will also be giving away mini Pride flags and stickers while supplies last.

The Museum's historic house features furniture designed by the federal government to fit Greenbelt homes, artifacts and objects used by a middle-class family during the years 1937-1952. There are hands-on items for kids including a rotary phone, a typewriter, vintage View Masters and more. Quick tours will be offered during this event (approximately 15 minutes) but visitors are encouraged to return for a more in-depth tour on any upcoming Sunday during regular hours 1 to 5 p.m.

Greenbelt was founded during the Great Depression, a time when families couldn't necessarily afford toys or games for their children, so many kids of the era entertained themselves by making things out of whatever they could find. In this tradition, attendees will make paper rainbow chains out of construction paper. The craft is free, while supplies last. No registration is required to visit or to participate in the craft.

- Megan Searing Young, director, Greenbelt Museum

Chess Event Sunday

Greenbelt Chess Club will hold a chess event for the community on Sunday, June 23 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Youth Center. This event is for all ages and skill levels. Teaching will be provided as needed.

Bring a chess set. For more information, contact Effie Levner at 443-415-1053.

At the Library

Greenbelt Library hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2.

Libraries are closed Wednesday, June 19 for the Juneteenth holiday, and will reopen on Thursday, June 20 at 10 a.m.

Storytimes

Friday, June 21, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630208.

Monday, June 24, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630162.

Wednesday, June 26, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630236.

Library Hosts Workshop on Wills

A free workshop on legal questions of wills, trusts and caregiving will be held on

Wednesday, June 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt Library's conference room. The workshop is open to all Greenbelt residents.

Organized by a group of Greenbelt senior citizens, this workshop is being led by an attorney from Byrd and Byrd, LLC of Bowie. The purpose of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for Greenbelt residents to get answers to their questions about wills, trusts, power of attorney and legal issues around caretaking. Due to the conference room's size, registration is limited to 14 and pre-registration is encouraged. To register, call 240-601-2802 or go to <https://tinyurl.com/willsgreenbelt>.

Ospreys in Peril Event At Patuxent Saturday

The Friends of the Patuxent Research Refuge are hosting a special event at the National Wildlife Visitor Center, Patuxent Research Refuge, on Saturday, June 22, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay are producing only a fraction of the young needed to sustain their population. Bryan Watts, director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary, will present his research findings.

Conservationists are taking up the fight to protect ospreys. David Reed, executive director of the Chesapeake Legal Alliance (CLA) will introduce Bill McKeever's short film, The Biggest Little Fish You've Never Seen, about menhaden, a principal food source for osprey, and guide a discussion on how CLA and others are taking action.

USGS researcher Barnett Rattner and naturalist Greg Kearns will discuss their findings on recent osprey nest success in the Patuxent and Choptank Rivers.

The restoration of osprey in Chesapeake Bay has been regarded as one of the great conservation successes in America and it is now very much at risk. Come learn why and what can be done.

Although the program is free, due to the limited seating, reservations will be required. More info and background about the program and speakers including a link to reserve tickets can be found at friendsofpatuxent.org/event-5726783. This program is hosted by the Friends of Patuxent Research Refuge in cooperation with the Maryland Ornithological Society. For more information and background on the presenters and program content, visit friendsofpatuxent.org.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



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113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm;
Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

| TH 6/20 | FRI 6/21 | SAT 6/22 | SUN 6/23 |
|---|--|--|---|
| FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm DRAG BINGO w/ D'Manda Martini 7-9pm Bingo with prizes! | | WEEKEND! The Magical Mystery Four 7-10pm All-female rockin' Beatles tribute group! | DEAF BRUNCH, 10:30a-12p Kim's Grand Rounds: A Songwriters' Circle 6-8pm Music performed in an intimate setting |
| MON 6/24 | TUES 6/25 | WED 6/26 | TH 6/27 |
| SUPPORT THE CAFE BY BECOMING A MEMBER! See website* | Early Birds Tunes w/ Michael Trouserpants 6:30-9:30pm Sign ups at 6:15pm | Georgie Jessup 7-9pm Singer-songwriter plays old-school country to R&B | FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm The Bachelor and the Bad Actress 7-9pm All-original duo |

*Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

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THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES.

Contact: jbelltower@yahoo.com. We promise: It won't hurt!

Obituaries

Lillian Dambrauskas



PHOTO BY SUSAN DAMBRAUSKAS

Lillian Mae Dambrauskas

Lillian Mae Dambrauskas died on May 26, 2024, in her Greenbelt home of nearly 60 years, with her children nearby. She was 92.

Lillian was an unassuming hero to her children, her neighbors and to scores of others whose lives she touched through her volunteer work and compassionate caregiving. She was a talented seamstress and an accommodating cook who always made room at the table and in her home for anyone seeking a good meal or friendship.

Born to Lawrence John and Lillian May Dennis on December 9, 1931, in Olney, Md., Lillian was the oldest of four daughters. After graduating from Elkridge High School in 1948, she began working at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To support her family, she often traveled from Beltsville to Baltimore by Greyhound Bus to a second job at Montgomery Ward.

On June 20, 1953, Lillian married Daniel Dambrauskas. A year later, they bought their first of three homes in Greenbelt. They danced through life together for 67 years – raising three children and helping to raise one grandson – until Daniel's death in 2020.

Lillian later worked at the National Children's Center in Laurel

and at the University of Maryland College Park Bookstore. Her most cherished work, however, was making custom clothing, costumes and accessories. She also reupholstered sofas and chairs and made curtains for her home and others.

Like many of her generation, Lillian and her sisters made clothing from feed sacks. Her sewing skills were unmatched. Throughout her life, she made clothing in all sizes, sometimes crafting matching outfits for her daughters' dolls. She designed and created exquisite bridesmaid and wedding dresses for her daughters, nieces and friends.

From Captain Hook to lavish can-can dance skirts, she adorned fabrics, hats and gloves with sequins, feathers and rhinestones, designing and constructing costumes until just a few months before her death. She was the premiere costumier for students of the Eleanor Pernia School of Dance in Beltsville for more than a decade. Lillian also taught sewing to Greenbelt 4-H Club members.

As a volunteer for St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church and School, she tutored young students to improve their literacy skills and helped with school lunches and other school activities. During the 1970s and 1980s, Lillian and Daniel helped raise more than \$100,000 for the church by organizing and managing fundraising dances and Thursday night bingo, where Lillian's homemade sloppy joe sauce reportedly sold out each week. The couple received a plaque in 1983 for their years of service to the church.

Lillian loved playing games with family and friends, and she was an avid duckpin bowler. In 1963, she was filmed for the popular Bowling for Dollars TV program. She also loved hosting Sunday family dinners, sharing

any leftovers with the wild animals that graced her yard.

Lillian is survived by her son, Raymond (Louise) of Shepherdstown, W.V.; daughter Donna (Gabriel Iriarte) of Longboat Key, Fla.; daughter Susan of Silver Spring; and grandson Mikhail Iriarte of Longboat Key, Fla. She was preceded in death by her husband Daniel and her sisters Mary Ann (Spioch), Jean Louise (DePriest) and Barbara Joan (Kroll).

Lillian and the remains of her beloved husband will be buried together at Crownsville Veterans Cemetery in a private service on July 1, 2024. To view Lillian's photo gallery, visit gaschs.com/obituaries/lillian-dambrauskas.

Joyce Mangum



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Joyce Mangum

Joyce Lorraine Bates Mangum died in Greenbelt on June 5, 2024. She was born October 28, 1928, in Elmira, N.Y. Her parents, Harry and Winifred Bates, moved the family – Joyce and her two siblings – to Washington, D.C., in the summer of 1937. Soon after that move an opportunity to move to the new town of Greenbelt opened up and they moved in to 13-H Ridge Road in October 1937.

See OBITUARIES, page 13

Our condolences to the family and many friends of Joyce Mangum, who died on June 5. She loved to play games and enjoyed baking.

Our condolences too to the family and friends of Lillian Dambrauskas, a talented sewer and avid bowler.

Our sympathies to the family and friends of Connie Schwan. She loved all her many pets.

The city flag is at half-staff to honor Juanita Wilmer, who was a longtime resident of GHI and involved Greenbelter. Condolences to her family and friends.

Our sympathies too to Brianne Boylan and Alex Barnes on the unexpected death of Brianne's mother, Debra Boylan, only one week after moving to Greenbelt.

A memorial service will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, on July 6.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to News Review Member Mary Moien who is recovering from a broken bone.

Congratulations to longtime Greenbelt realtor Kim Kash who has been ranked the Number 5 Individual Agent by volume in the Compass Real Estate brokerage group.

Congratulations to Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team's Barracudas who kicked off their summer competition season on Saturday with a win against the Smallwood Village Swim Club.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



"Beautify your tongues, O people, with truthfulness, and adorn your souls with the ornament of honesty."

– Bahá'u'lláh

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

The Bible Says...

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

James 4:17



Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



June 23, 2024 at 3:00 pm
Weaving Our Lives

Recorded General Assembly Worship Service led by Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, UU Church of Columbia Missouri

Carol Boston, Worship Associate for PBUC's Zoom viewing

We are all tangled up together in a great web of life that is woven with beauty and hardship, love and loss, thriving and struggle. How do we tend well to the weaving so that all of us are held in care? This Sunday, we will gather ONLINE ONLY to watch and discuss the recorded Sunday worship service video from General Assembly, our denomination's large annual meeting. You can expect inspired preaching and music AND a chance to talk about it all with other Paint Branchers in Zoom.

This week only, the service will be held only on Zoom. You'll find the link in the Paint Branch Continuum e-newsletter, or reach out to engagement@pbuc.org by Saturday to get the link sent to you.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT PAR-LITURGY
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ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+ownergroups.io

cathcomgreenbelt.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

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Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-9410

Bible Study Monday 1:30 - 3 p.m.
All are Welcome.
Led by the Reverend Evelyn Romero,
Elder of the United Methodist Church

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road

We are an Open and Affirming Church

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- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
 - Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
 - Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
- Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

City Notes

The City Manager, Greenbelt Fire Department and Prince George's County Fire Department (PGCFD) had several meetings about firefighter reallocation and Fire/EMS staffing.

Planning met with Police about noise enforcement and with Public Works about bus stop improvements.

For Pride Day, Streets crews installed risers and Park Rangers provided support. The Museum offered Pride-themed activities and introduced a new open-house flag.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center hosted Pre-K Bilingual Storytime and a Summer Kick-off Celebration. Preparing for Summer Camps, Arts and Public Works reorganized studios and Therapeutic Recreation refined Inclusion support.

Golden Age Club meetings returned to the Community Center, with the elevator now working. Senior Fit classes moved to the Fire Department for the summer.

At the Lake, Park Rangers supported a Senior Walk and PGCFD's Water Rescue Training.

Animal Shelter residents are 10 cats, five kittens and 10 dogs after two adoptions.

At their Job Fair, CARES and Economic Development connected more than 60 job seekers with employers and training.

Summer Prince George's At the Library

The Washington Nationals and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System are partnering to present Summer Prince George's (SPG), a program for all ages that runs through August 15. More than a traditional summer reading program, SPG encourages children, teens and adults to read 30 minutes each day, attend Library programs, explore the Library's physical collection of materials as well as a wide range of streaming movies and music in the 85+ online Library resources and participate in interactive social media challenges. Library customers may register for the SPG challenge at pgcmls.info/summer and log reading, event attendance and online resource activities to earn badges and prizes. This year's prizes include tote bags, T-shirts, vouchers for Washington Nationals tickets and grand prizes. Those interested can pick up an SPG paper card to track activities or register for the challenge on PGCMILS' Beanstack app.

Chess Club Meets Tuesday, June 25

Adults and youth of all skill levels are invited to play chess on the second, third and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Youth Center, from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The next meeting is on June 25. Those who can should bring a chess set. For more information, contact Effie at greenbeltnchessclub@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY THERESA RIDEOUT

Theresa and Beau Rideout pose with the News Review at Joshua Tree National Park's Hidden Valley trailhead on May 27.



PHOTO COURTESY MIKE CANTWELL

Mike Cantwell holds a copy of the Greenbelt News Review in front of the Petoskey, Michigan, News Review building.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR JUNE 24 - 28

Monday, June 24, NO MEETING - MML CONFERENCE

Tuesday, June 25 at 7 pm, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, On the Agenda: Minutes from May, Finalize Calendar and Activities for 2023-2024 School Year, Discussion of 2023-2024 Budget / Scholarship Account, 2023-2024 Grant Reports / Field Trip Reports, 2024-2025 Grant Program, Labor Day Parade - September 2

Tuesday, June 25 at 7:30 pm, GREEN ACES AND GREEN TEAM

Wednesday, June 26, NO MEETING - MML CONFERENCE

Wednesday, June 26 at 7 pm, PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda: Approve Agenda/Minutes, Council Liaison Update, Recreation Department Update, Administrative Report

Thursday, June 27 at 7 pm, FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda: Deer Enclosure, Northwestern Eagle Bridge and Canyon Creek Trail Rerouting, Sunrise Tract Trail Proposal, Outreach Planning (Banner Design, Labor Day Festival), Update & Discussion on Trails & Invasives, Possible Additional Signage at the Northway Entrance, Greenbriar Preserve: Outreach to Condos & ERHS

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.

GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS
Applications Deadlines Extended Through August 30, 2024

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic visit us at www.engagegreenbelt.org.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- Dementia Friendly America Webinars, June.
- Emergency Diaper Distribution. Must register <https://forms.gle/FEQg7ScdrUdZgCgy9>
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road
Upcoming Dates: June 20, from 1 - 3 pm
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)
Upcoming Dates: June 20, from 3 - 4:15 pm

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/CARESprograms and see ads on this page!

FREE CARES CLASSES

Stress Surfing, Wednesdays, July 10, 17, & 24, 11 am - 1 pm, 15 Crescent Rd
Three week program that focuses on the science of stress and stress management.

Dining with Diabetes, Wednesdays, August 7, 14, 21, & 28, 15 Crescent Rd
Four week program that focuses on diabetes management through nutrition.

Register with Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or email bgarcia@greenbeltdmd.gov.

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK & TALK

Greenbelt Station's Central Park

Thursday, June 20, 6:30 pm

Join us as we walk the Greenbelt Station Neighborhood.

You are invited to join us for a neighborhood walk and talk with Chief Bowers, City Manager Josué Salmerón, and members of City Council. This is a fantastic opportunity for us all to connect directly and learn more about the efforts being made to ensure the well-being of our community.

This event is designed for open dialogue, so please feel free to come out and share your thoughts and concerns. Issues that matter to you are important to us as we work towards building a safer, more united community.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION**UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS**
JUNE 20 - TWO LOCATIONS

Community Center Ground Floor East: 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltdmd.gov.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbeltdmd.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019.

To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCntWf9>.

Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.

**COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES****VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee**, the **Youth Advisory Committee**, or the **Advisory Committee on Education**, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

FEATURED PETS**SMITTEN WITH KITTENS!**

Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124

We are now accepting applications for 6 kittens and their 3-year-old momma, Nessie. The litter was born about 3 months ago under a Greenbelt Middle School outbuilding. Thanks to concerned teachers, they have been safe and growing at our shelter since. They are a playful, curious and well-socialized bunch and they all have their shots and are spay/neutered. There's one black female, and the rest are male: 1 white and black, 1 grey and white, and 3 grey tabbies. Nessie has been a caring and diligent momma. She is a bit shy at first but is super friendly and cuddly once she feels safe. Would you like to welcome in sweet Nessie, and/or an adorable kitty or two?

Call (301) 474-6124 or email animalcontrol@greenbeltdmd.gov!



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An Independent Newspaper

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Get Ready for the Labor Day Festival

March in the Parade

The Festival Parade will take place on Monday, September 2 from 10 a.m. to noon. The parade route is along Crescent Road, from Greenhill Road to

Southway. Organizations, clubs and other groups are encouraged to participate. Visit greenbeltlaborday.com/parade for more information and to register.



PHOTO BY COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee gathered Tuesday evening to honor Linda Ivy for her many years of service to the Festival. She was presented with a plaque by a grateful committee. Cake and punch were enjoyed by all.

From left, Dave Zahren, Karen Yoho, Kathy Reynolds, Amy Knesel, guest of honor Linda Ivy, Donna Peterson, Lisa Stand, Keith Zevallos, Abby Crowley, Wayne Williams, Anne Gardner and Emily Cole.

Apply for Information Day

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee is now accepting applications for Information Day, which will take place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 31 in Roosevelt Center. Organizations, clubs, businesses and other groups are invited to share information with the public. Find out more and register at greenbeltlaborday.com/get-involved/information-day.

Letters continued from page 2

committee that selects the Outstanding Citizen doesn't know everyone in town. Finding that special person in a city full of volunteers requires diverse community input. Tell us about someone you know who contributes to our community!

Every successful nonprofit relies on a team of volunteers. Without volunteers, our many cooperatives could not function. Without dedicated citizens freely giving their time, the City of Greenbelt could not rely on crucial input from advisory boards and committees. Volunteers run youth programs, helping organize sports and scouting programs. Volunteers shuttle senior citizens to medical appointments.

Nominate someone you know by completing the form on this page. Describe contributions to our community, acts of kindness and actions that make Greenbelt better – whether the whole city, a neighborhood or an organization. Nominations are due Monday, July 29. This year's honoree will be the 50th since the award began in 1973. The honoree also serves as Grand Marshal of the Greenbelt Labor Day Parade.

Every Greenbelt resident knows someone who distinguishes themselves with outstanding volunteer service, often without the recognition they deserve. History indicates many Outstanding Citizens were nominated several times before their selection. The committee counts on nominations from the public to identify this person each year, and to ensure Greenbelt's civic traditions grow and flourish into the future.

Bob Zugby

Chair, Outstanding Citizen Selection Committee

Maglev Construction: No One Wants It

I do not support this proposed invading monster. It's personal. I live near Greenbelt and it's going to affect my life. Nobody I know wants it. I won't vote for anyone who supports it. I am angry that it is even being considered as a "need." What a waste of

16 or whatever billions of dollars in order to get somewhere 15 minutes faster than Amtrak. It's also not practical. It doesn't serve our community. We can't even get on the thing. And so to the impacts of construction. From what I have read, it will take an estimated 760,000 trips for construction trucks to haul away the mountains of soil during underground tunneling (48 feet wide in diameter) and to bring in construction materials. Where will all this increased truck traffic go, and for how long? Years? What will be the damage/repair costs to our roads? And We Know Who will pay for that ... And as for the generated dust and carbon pollution to choke us and our children, and our plant life? We Know Who will "pay" for that too.

All this construction and mess (and all these billions), just for some to get from D.C. to Baltimore 15 minutes quicker? Seriously?

Carrie Dike

P.S.: While I do not live in Greenbelt, Greenbelt is a huge part of my life: work, play, walk, eat, swim, yoga and more.

Eliminating Fire, Rescue Service Is Dangerous

In an incredibly ill-advised election-year move, our vital county-provided fire and rescue service is threatened with termini-

nation within a few weeks. Eliminating this most important service to three of the county's main cities is nuts. Even if it's just a ploy to increase taxes, it's wrong on so many levels. Cut the pork, not the essentials. Our excellent fire and rescue service, county-paid and volunteer-assisted, is the most essential of all.

Last week's News Review headline said that this cut would "double response time." Anybody think that response to fires and heart attacks ought to be delayed?

Last fall I was driving down Beaver Dam Road and stopped to help a motorist stranded over a pile of leaves by the side of the road. As he spun his tires when I tried to push, the leaves ignited and flames shot out all under the engine. I immediately called our Greenbelt Fire Department, who arrived in less than 10 minutes.

During this time the entire car was engulfed in flames. Tires popping, scorched paint and seats melted beyond recognition as the driver and myself stood safely away. The four firefighters, all county employees, expertly and courageously put out the fire. This was before the gas tank might have exploded and perhaps the surrounding forest set ablaze had response been delayed,

Like that fire, this bad decision needs to be reversed quickly before it burns out of control.

Frank Gervasi

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| Ads pay for our newspaper's service to the community | | | | | | | | |
| Email ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com to find out more | | | | | | | | |

Not So Fast: Maglev High-Speed Train Project Has Hit Some Skids

by Jeremy Cox

One of the main selling points for constructing a \$13 billion magnet-propelled train line between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore is speed. Proponents envision levitating train cars going 300 miles per hour and faster, reducing the travel time between the two cities to a mere 15 minutes.

But those go-fast ambitions have collided with the go-slow realities of acquiring state and federal permits. The mounting difficulties threaten to derail the high-profile project.

First came the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) decision in 2019 to pause the five-year, \$28 million study of the project's potential environmental impacts, citing the need for additional engineering and design details. After work on the study restarted, the FRA initiated a second pause in 2021 without finalizing a preferred route.

Nearly three years into the effort's current suspension, an FRA spokeswoman told the Bay Journal in April that "there are no updates available." The study must be completed and federally approved for the project to move forward.

Now comes another wrench in the works: Northeast Maglev, the private company leading the project, withdrew its application in late December for a water-quality certification from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The move came after MDE indicated it was poised to reject the request, pointing to a bevy of missing details, such as finalized design plans and stormwater discharge totals.

Northeast Maglev didn't make a representative available to comment for this report. But the company has notified MDE that it intends to reapply after it acquires more engineering and design information.

Some environmental groups, including the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, have thrown their support behind the project. They say the high-speed train will result in a net win for the environment by removing millions of polluting car trips from area roadways, leading to improved air quality.

But many conservationists remain opposed. Among them: the Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee, Sierra Club's Maryland chapter, Beaver-dam Creek Watershed Watch, the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Friends of Patuxent. They greeted the permit withdrawal announcement with cautious relief.

"We were very excited," said Rhonda Kranz, president of the Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit, an anti-maglev community group. "We spent so much time going to hearings and writing a 600-page report. They can still come back with this, but I think it was a real win."

Critics have raised myriad objections to the project.

Although the train itself doesn't directly emit greenhouse gases, opponents contend it would still need enormous amounts of electricity derived from fossil fuels. They also take issue with Northeast Maglev's preferred route, which would slice through several federal properties, including portions of the Patuxent Research Refuge. And with an expected average fare price of \$60, they say it would be a viable option only for the wealthiest commuters.

"At its core, our big concern with the maglev project is it requires extensive amounts of new infrastructure to do basically the same thing that MARC [Maryland Area Rail Commuter] and Amtrak are currently doing," said

See MAGLEV, page 8

2024 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Nomination Form

Submit this form (or something equivalent) by **July 29** to

Bob Zugby

Outstanding Citizen Committee

94 Ridge Road, Greenbelt MD 20770

or OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Attach a statement (preferably printed or typed) explaining why this nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen.

You can include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time, specific accomplishments, their impact upon Greenbelt or people within the City, and personal qualities that make the nominee special. Note this award is for *unpaid* volunteer work only.

Any supporting printed material is useful, but not required.

Others' testimonials are also helpful.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later. The form and any additional information must be received no later than the **July 29 deadline**.

Nominated by:

Name(s)

Signature(s)

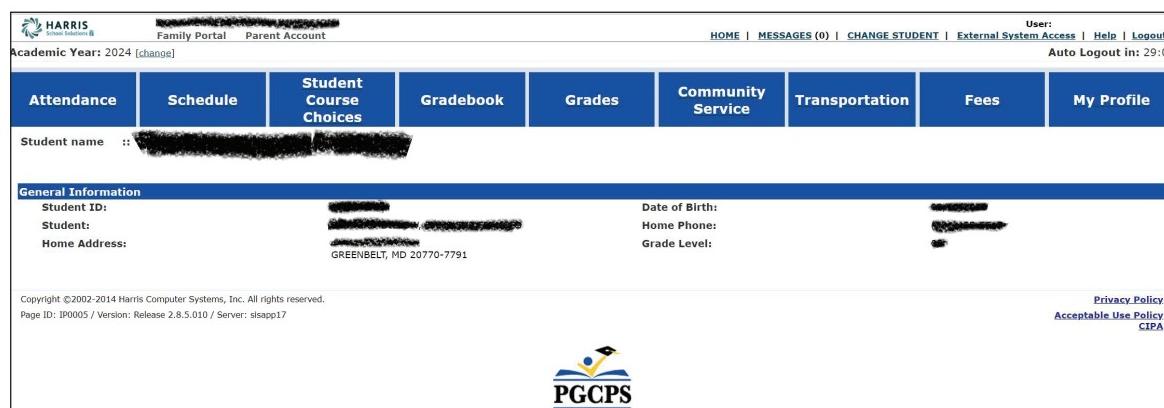
Telephone

We need your input—thank you!

School News

PGCPS to Shut Down SchoolMAX, Will Transition to Synergy in July

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



SchoolMAX is used by parents and students to access their grades, enrollment details and other student data.

This summer, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will shut down SchoolMAX, the Student Information System (SIS) and parent portal they've been using for 15 years, and transition to a new system called Synergy. Between June 30 and July 22, all information from SchoolMAX will be transferred into Synergy and both systems will be unavailable, said PGCPS in a statement.

On June 13, PGCPS announced that the SchoolMAX Family Portal will be accessible until June 22 for families to review grades and report cards are scheduled to be mailed out the week of July 8. SchoolMAX will be inaccessible after June 22 and families will receive information about enrolling in its replacement, the Synergy ParentVue portal, starting in July.

PGCPS announced in January that they had selected the Synergy Education Platform for the district's SIS and learning management needs. The school district has used SchoolMAX since 2008 but in the superintendent's recommendation to the Board of Education in the fall, SchoolMAX was described as an aging system "unable to keep pace with advancements and innovations" and a challenge to integrate with newer systems, namely Canvas.

"However, SchoolMAX is now aging out in terms of its usefulness and is occurring across schools, departments and public education more broadly. Specifically, integrations with new systems, such as Canvas, have become increasingly challenging due to the aging nature of the SchoolMAX application and the platform on which it was originally built," said the superintendent's recommendation. "Trends in education and user needs have tested the limits of our current student information system, particularly in a post-pandemic digital learning environment."

In 2022 PGCPS adopted Canvas as their Learning Management System (LMS). A Greenbelt public school teacher told the News Review that Canvas had never been successfully compatible with SchoolMAX. A Greenbelt parent said their child's assignments were difficult to track across the two systems – Canvas being the place students complete work and SchoolMAX being the official repository for sharing grades.

PGCPS evaluated three products in-depth based on "user friendliness, mobile responsive-

ness, system accessibility and scalability, software customization, integration with other systems and communication." An announcement from Synergy's parent company, Edupoint, said PGCPS praised Synergy's "functionality around scheduling, data analysis and reporting." PGCPS' recommendation said Synergy consistently earned the highest marks from stakeholder evaluators.

PGCPS secured \$4.5 million through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) to cover two years of costs of the new SIS. ESSER is part of a federal stimulus package in response to the pandemic. "This funding will cover the initial purchase for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 (year 1), the annual license renewal for FY 2025 (year 2), plus related startup implementation costs such as data migration, integration and training over the entirety of the first two years of the system implementation," states the recommendation.

"About \$5.5 million will be expended in FY 2024, and another \$5.5 million will be expended at the beginning of FY 2025 for annual software renewal fees. After the ESSER funding expires, we will need to add funding to the operating budget in FY 2026 to sustain our software licensing for critical technology applications currently covered by ESSER funding," said the administration in a written response to board members' questions.

The five-year implementation plan estimates costs as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Year One/FY 2024: | \$1,746,620 |
| Year Two/FY 2025: | \$2,637,893 |
| Year Three/FY 2026: | \$2,497,431 |
| Year Four/FY 2027: | \$2,572,355 |
| Year Five/FY 2028: | \$2,649,526 |

The plan suggests that after ESSER funds are exhausted, beginning in FY 2026, the school district will need to cover an estimated \$2.5 million in costs associated with the new system.

This reporter has two children who attend Prince George's County Public Schools.



Gov. Moore Signs Two Bills Impacting Funds for Education

by Randy Chow

On May 16, Governor Wes Moore signed into law two bills that reportedly may decrease funding to Prince George's County schools. The legislation will go into effect on July 1.

Currently, most of the tax revenue from telecommunications and energy/fuel are earmarked for the county's education budget. After the passage of House Bill (HB) 396, county funds from sales and use tax on energy/fuel will no longer be earmarked for education. "Local appropriation for the county school system may decrease by \$53.2 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and by \$64.7 million in FY 2029," according to

HB 396's fiscal note.

In addition, passage of HB 398 removes the education earmarks on telecommunication tax revenue. HB 398's fiscal note reports that Prince George's County local appropriation for its county school system "may decrease by \$13.1 million in FY 2025 and by \$16.0 million by FY 2029."

In March, Greenbelt city councilmembers unanimously opposed the two bills.

Randy Chow is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland and an intern with the Greenbelt News Review.



PHOTO BY DONNA O'BRIEN

The Greenbelt News Review at the Giant's Causeway, Bushmills, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. The site, also known as Clochán an Aifir, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of an ancient volcanic fissure eruption. Shown are former Greenbelt residents, now of College Park, Bob Baer and Kathy Keller-Baer.

CLARICE
PRESENTS

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JULIA CRUZ, CONDUCTOR

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

City Council Holds Last Hearing On Budget, Discusses ARPA Funds

by Carol Griffith

On May 29, the Greenbelt City Council made two proclamations, conducted the last public hearing of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 proposed budget and received updates on the Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. In his administrative report, City Manager Josué Salmerón addressed the "challenging" state of the indoor pool at the Aquatic & Fitness Center, the status of the Charlestowne North apartments and Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) awards. Approval of purchases for the Greenbelt Police Department and Public Works made during this meeting was covered in an article in the June 13 issue.

Proclamations

Council proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month, accepted by Karen Knee, and the week of June 1 through 9 as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, with Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, Public Works environmental coordinator, accepting.

FY 2025 Budget

The meeting was then recessed for a second and last public hearing on the FY 2025 proposed budget. Following nine worksessions on the budget and a previous public hearing, the budget was adopted at the council meeting on Monday, June 3. Caitlin McGrath, executive director of Greenbelt Cinema, thanked council for considering the Cinema's request for a large increase in its stipend and resident Michael Hartman thanked staff and council for its work on the FY 2025 budget process. Franklin Park resident Kevin Lockhart requested council assistance for the Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. (Sensational, Inspirational, Talented Youth) Stars, a jump rope team. He reminded council that the team is scheduled to go to Japan for a competition and asked for help with equipment, noting the group had made a presentation to council in an earlier worksession. Resident Bill Orleans requested a change in how updates to the proposed budget are tracked and communicated. Salmerón responded, saying that one change Orleans requested was not feasible but that all changes to the proposed budget were posted online. Orleans also requested that should any ARPA funds be undesignated at the end of the process, they be given to Greenbelt CARES. Salmerón responded that he would explore that option should the conditions arise.



Greenbelt Farmers Market



Sundays 10a - 2p
Southway and Centerway

GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org

A Fundraiser for the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival

Thursday,
June 27
7pm to
9pm



with:
COOP
at the New Deal Café
The Bachelor and the Bad Actress & The Borrowed Brothers

MAGLEV continued from page 6

Kyle Hart, Mid-Atlantic program manager for the National Parks Conservation Association.

The train's special U-shaped guideway would run mostly through tunnels bored up to 320 feet below the surface. About 70 percent of the 40-mile route would be underground, but it would emerge above ground as much as 150 feet overhead along "viaducts" perched on concrete piers. The service would operate between dedicated new stations at Mount Vernon Square in D.C. and the Cherry Hill neighborhood in Baltimore, with a single stop at Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

Japan, which pioneered maglev technology in the 1970s, has pledged \$5 billion toward the U.S. construction project. Backers hope to eventually extend the route to New York City. A full trip between there and D.C., roughly 200 miles, would take just an hour, they say.

Maryland's water-quality certification process is triggered whenever a new project is expected to discharge polluted stormwater into waterways protected by the federal Clean Water Act. Northeast Maglev's permit application identifies seven Chesapeake Bay tributaries to be affected, including the Anacostia, Little Patuxent and Severn Rivers.

The project would require about 450 acres of trees to be cleared. About 22 acres of wetlands and nearly 13,000 linear feet of streams would be impacted. Northeast Maglev told MDE it would use state-approved treatment practices during construction and in the installation of stormwater facilities to ensure that the discharges meet water-quality standards.

In a December 22 letter to Northeast Maglev, Danielle Spendiff, head of MDE's regulatory division, wrote that even after receiving additional details from Northeast Maglev, the agency still "does not have a reasonable assurance that this project will comply with water quality standards."

She pointed to several flaws in the developer's request. Those included that the project's layout



Greenbelters join the rally at the U.S. Department of Transportation on April 2, 2021.

remains conceptual, efforts to address floodwaters with underground storage may be "challenging or infeasible," and there are scant details on how sensitive species, such as freshwater mussels, will be impacted.

Less than a week later, Northeast Maglev notified the agency that it was pulling the application but would "reapply when the project documents are detailed enough to address MDE's comments."

Spendiff replied that "it is strongly recommended (although not required)" that Northeast Maglev wait until the federal environmental impact study resumes and there is more certainty surrounding the preferred route.

"I read that as, 'Please don't waste our resources,'" said Dan Woomer, a past president of the

Coalition for Responsible Transit. His organization, he added, supports enhancements to MARC, Amtrak and other public transportation options to help relieve the region's congestion.

It is unclear when or if the federal environmental impact study will restart. The effort has run out of federal funding, and any further work would require additional outlays, said Nora Corasaniti of the Maryland Department of Transportation in a September 2023 email to State Delegate Nicole A. Williams of Prince George's County, who had requested an update on the project.

Jeremy Cox is a Bay Journal staff writer based in Maryland. This article first appeared in the Bay Journal and is reprinted with permission.



Daniel Thies reads his Greenbelt News Review in New Orleans.

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PHOTO BY DONNA HOFFMEISTER

Celebrating Young Thinkers And Leaders Making Change

by Julia Snyder

On Saturday, June 15, the Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project and the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee hosted the third annual Racial Justice Essay and Creative Arts Award Ceremony at the Community Center. The entries included essays, creative writing and visual arts. They were all works that shed light on historical or present-day racial injustice. There were student awardees from seven different Prince George's County public high schools. Mikayla Hollis from Eleanor Roosevelt High School won third place in the Creative Writing category for her essay titled The School to Prison Pipeline, which her mom read for the crowd.

Janelle Bassole of Laurel High School was the first-place winner in the Essay Writing category, for her essay titled A Practice Built off the Back of Suffering about the origins of modern gynecology. Her essay, which she read to the crowd, explained how various medical practices used today were developed through experiments done on enslaved Black women. She also linked this topic to medical disparities that People of Color continue to face in the United States. Emanuella Umoh of College Park Academy also read her second-place winning essay about the importance of representation, titled The Power of Representation: Illuminating Paths to Racial Justice Through Media. Jaelynn Walker of Chesapeake Math and IT Academy North High School won second place in the Visual Arts category for her work Bars of Freedom, which was a rendition of the American Flag. Marli Jones of Frederick Douglass High School sent a video of her reading her essay titled The Pipeline. Neil Hardigan, a teacher in Prince George's County, presented the awards. The awardees won scholarships totaling \$4,000.

This essay and creative arts contest is held each year by the Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project, whose mission is to "educate the public about the truths of our nation's continuing legacy of the institution of slavery and its impact on enslaved persons and their descendants." Part of this goal is to begin to heal deep wounds by telling the truth about racial history in Prince George's County. As Lula Beatty of the Lynching Memorial project explained, we must "work together as one united Prince George's County [to create justice that is equal for all of us]." She continued to explain that these are "issues that matter to the grandmas like me but also to the children" who are the future. This contest is about supporting young voices because they are the leaders in making change.

Both local citizens and their representatives came out to celebrate the student awardees and their families. Lois Rosado gave the introduction and talked about Greenbelt and its historic nature and pride in its spirit of cooperation. Greenbelt City Councilmembers Danielle McKinney, Jenni Pompi, Kristen Weaver and Amy Knesel attended the event,



Jaelynn Walker created the piece of art, Bars of Freedom, from the American flag.



Emanuella Umoh wrote about the importance of representation.

- Photos by Katie Pugliese



Janelle Bassole wrote about the origins of modern gynecology.

- Photos by Julia Snyder

and Mayor Emmett Jordan spoke and honored the winners. State Representative Ashanti Martinez also spoke and emphasized that this is a living history that we are



Lois Rosado of Greenbelt's Black History and Culture Committee gives the introduction and speaks about the city of Greenbelt.

all a part of.

To apply for next year's contest, visit pgclmp.org/racial-justice-contest.



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Isabel Salvatierra stands next to an artichoke thistle in Greenbelt, which may grow to a height of eight feet.

PHOTO BY CAMILA LUCHSINGER



Greenbelters and colleagues Rebekah Hein, Natalie Bailey and Heidi Schuttenberg enjoy the News Review (and the World-Famous Greenbelt Utility Pole postcard!) in Pretoria, South Africa, where they were delivering training on biodiversity.

PHOTO BY SHER VOGEL

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FIRE DEPT. continued from page 1



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLON

"How is that protecting my community? And I understand you might have numbers, but I see the results," said Greenbelt Councilmember Rodney Roberts, standing on right. Prince George's County Deputy Fire Chief James McClelland is shown on the left.

will be stationed at Bunker Hill in Brentwood, near the D.C. border. "We are not going to leave these areas unprotected," said McClelland. "We realize the service that needs to be provided and we are going to provide it."

The hall of the Greenbelt Fire Department was filled for the monthly, countywide meeting. "It was quiet at the beginning of the month. Unfortunately, that didn't last," quipped President of the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Lee Lutz in his opening comments. "The Chief has issued a new summer staffing plan. The career personnel will be removed from station [8]55, station [8]14, station [8]35 and station [8]39. This was done, according to the chief, to accommodate the leave problems that they're going to encounter this summer when everybody takes vacation.... We're probably 80 percent EMS calls in this county and that's going to leave a pretty big hole on that part of the county EMS-wise. She thinks that the volunteers should be able to step up and help cover it, however there are surge units they're going to apply to help out with the EMS part of the problem and there is one paramedic engine," said Lutz. "I know as the association we never, never want to see career staff removed from any station in this county. However, we weren't really given a choice. I was notified about this I believe Thursday of last week [June 6]." Career and volunteer personnel staffing are both down in the county, Lutz said, and he expressed the hope that folks could get together to devise a better plan.

"I'm not happy with that at all, either," said Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association's First Vice President Donnie Wells. Wells echoed that 80 percent of calls were for EMS. He is with the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department. "I am one of the volunteer houses that gets hit, and I see how my guys are already stressed," said Wells of the volume of calls placed on

volunteers and he predicted things would get worse. "Stress factors are gonna get high.... Right now we don't have an option. We don't have a choice."

Luckily we don't have to worry about them taking all ours out 'cause they already did," said Second Vice President William Cunningham, dryly, during his report. Cunningham is with Richie Volunteer Fire Department, which is also an all-volunteer station.

Green was out of town and unavailable for the meeting. In her stead Deputy Fire Chief McClelland talked about the summer staffing plan. For three years career and volunteer corporations and departments have struggled with membership, he told the crowd. "Prince George's Fire and EMS Department for the career side is short 251 firefighters," said McClelland. He spoke to the "physical and mental impact" on the career firefighters who have had significant mandatory overtime each summer for the last three years and haven't gone home to families and children at the ends of their shifts. He acknowledged the impact on volunteers, too. "The Prince George's County government has authorized the largest hiring in its history," McClelland announced. "We are hiring 150 uniform firefighters in this budget cycle and

See FIRE DEPT., page 12

Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George's County!

Curated routes and trail maps: anacostiatrails.org

Point of View

Time Is Life: EMTs Matter

by Jennifer Harris

I was aghast to read that our trained emergency medical staff is being ripped away from our community. My husband acquired a seizure disorder in 1991 from a ruptured AVM. You would know what that stands for if you were an EMT.

When deciding where to put down roots, we were tempted to live in a more rural setting. But we knew that my husband could need urgent, lifesaving help quickly. We chose Greenbelt because of the community and also the proximity to the fire department.

Anyone can acquire a seizure disorder. People who experience seizures can live full and fulfilling lives, but injuries are part of the routine, the scene.

Both Greenbelt Medics and Berwyn heroes have rescued my husband from the scythe of the Grim Reaper.

Our first visit from the walking angels was in 2001 when my husband went into status epilepticus for the first time. Status is when the person has one seizure after the other or is in a continuous seizure state. It's super terrifying to see because breathing is interrupted or irregular. It's about as close as you can get to watching someone drown. It's deadly if the person does not get lifesaving therapies in an ER.

Like drowning, minutes and seconds matter. Lifesaving medications start with the EMTs in the house, right away. Then the patient is rushed to the resuscitation unit in the ER for more intravenous medication.

Time, time, time. It's all about time.

Bill has suffered from Status three times since then. Each time I called 911, and within minutes, he was literally carried out of his home and into lifesaving hands by these amazing, dedicated, generous, smart and caring heroes.

That's not all, folks.

In May 2020, I came home from a short trip to the Co-op Supermarket. I found him conscious, but on the ground, with his knee going in an impossible angle not in line with his hips. He had broken his leg, falling from a standing position while getting a shirt out of the closet.

Within minutes, there was a highly trained bunch of medics levitating him down the stairs and into their saving-grace care. A surgeon was right there at the Prince George's County hospital to repair him so he could live and walk again. Minutes mattered.

When he had a heart attack that same summer while recovering from his broken leg adventure, minutes mattered again without a doubt. The EMTs knew they had a heart attack situation because they had an EKG on deck with people who knew their stuff, and they got a reading on site which whipped them into motion. They got him into their vehicle and administered medication right away as they were speeding across town.

I am heartbroken for the EMTs and their families. This is going to mean they can't get to

people in serious distress quickly. Those patients are going to be worse off and have fatal outcomes in some cases, simply because the authorities have decided that we don't deserve professional emergency services. That is so terribly unfair. This will lead to a basic job dissatisfaction with the impossible parameters of time and outcomes. And then we lose these people altogether.

The people who made this decision need to go with these folks on a few missions. Ask them some questions. Listen to how they feel about their own future in the Hometown Heroes Force. Listen to what they need, each and every one of the 24 people who are here for us.

Policy should be made from the ground up by people who are listening to the experts, the workers. They deserve the tools to perform their miracles. Time is an essential tool of the lifesaving trades.

As a caregiver, I am in a heightened state of worry. I used to comfort myself with the thought that, "at least help is just a few blocks away."

Please, let us keep our EMTs.

Jennifer Harris has been a resident of Greenbelt for 25 years.



PHOTO BY MARC MANHEIMER

A Carolina wren feeds a young brown-headed cowbird. Adult female cowbirds lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and let them raise the cowbird youngsters.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred June 10-16, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltdmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported four mental health diversions, two involving suicide and one involving a domestic; four additional domestics, two involving arrest; and one sexual assault.

On June 12, officers found a child wandering alone and reunited him with his parents.

Animal Complaint

On June 11 at 10:47 p.m. near 6106 Breezewood Drive, a boy was walking home and a dog that was loose from a neighbor's house bit him on the hand. The boy was treated at the hospital.

Arrest

On June 16 at 4:36 p.m. near 6207 Springhill Court, a woman said her medicine was stolen and a man presented a firearm to her when she confronted him. The woman had an open warrant and was taken into custody.

On June 15 at 7:55 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a very intoxicated man was walking in the streets and was taken to the station for detox. He was cited and released.

Assault

On June 15 at 1:54 p.m. near 101 Centerway, victims said they were assaulted by multiple females who were no longer present. Officers were able to review surveillance footage.

On June 13 at 4:57 p.m. near 6207 Springhill Court, a woman said she was assaulted but no evidence was found.

Stolen Firearm

On June 12 at 8:32 a.m. near 5910 Cherrywood Terrace, a firearm went missing after a man was evicted and his belongings were put out on the lawn.

Break-in/Burglary

On June 16 at 11:19 p.m. near 7810 Walker Drive, a woman came home and found the door frame damaged and multiple items stolen.

Disorderly

On June 15 at 3:37 a.m. near 7614 Hanover Parkway, a woman was extremely intoxicated and was asked to leave the property. When she tried to come back, she was arrested and given a citation.

On June 15 at 4:54 p.m. near 7701 Greenbelt Road, a customer said part of her order was wrong and went back to the kitchen because she didn't want her food to be spit on. An employee grabbed her by the arm and pulled her from the kitchen. Both parties were advised of their options.

Fight

On June 10 at 5:54 p.m. near 30 Crescent Road, two girls were fighting and one pepper-sprayed the other. They were taken into custody and released to their parents.

Robbery

On June 14 at 3:23 p.m. near 7599 Greenbelt Road, after a man used the bank ATM to deposit money, another man got out of a sedan with a handgun and demanded his money. The victim did not have any money left because he had made a deposit, and he showed the receipt. The other man ran back to his vehicle and drove away.

Theft / Shoplifting

On June 10 near 7900 Good Luck Road, a man met an online contact to purchase a phone and sent money via CashApp to the seller. Once the money was

received the seller fled without giving the man the phone.

On June 11 at 9:35 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a suspect stole multiple deodorants. On June 12 at 6:00 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, two shoplifters placed numerous items into backpacks and fled on foot.

On June 12 at 4:00 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole candles and left in a red Hyundai with DC tags.

On June 13 at 2:50 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers issued a criminal citation to a shoplifter who was banned from the location.

On June 14 at 8:09 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man grabbed a duffel bag and concealed merchandise in it which he left with. He was later found and banned, and the merchandise was returned.

On June 14 near 7113 Mathew Street, a woman's passport, credit card and some shoes were stolen from her home, possibly by a cleaning company.

On June 15 near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a man put his bag down while shopping and turned around to find it missing.

On June 15 at 6:33 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man hid candies in a dark bag, and left without making any payments.

Trespassing Arrests

On June 11 at 11:52 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man trespassed at Safeway after being banned and was given a criminal citation. On June 11 at 6:59 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man trespassed at Marshall's after being banned; he was arrested and transported on an open warrant.

Vandalism

On June 14 at 3:52 p.m. near 9171 Springhill Lane, a daughter's friend broke a residence window.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

On June 11 near 9112 Ed-

monston Road, a black 2019 Infiniti QX60 (Md. 9ET4541) was stolen. On June 15 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a 2013 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 5EG4701) was stolen from a parking lot. On June 16 near 9320 Edmonston Road, a black 2020 Kia Optima (N.C. KFE9758) was stolen.

Attempted Theft of Auto

On June 14 at 6:18 a.m. near 211 Lakeside Drive, a man received an alert notification on his phone that his vehicle was started and when he checked he found the driver-side window shattered.

Theft from Auto

Tags were stolen: June 11 near 9108 Springhill Lane (N.J. R63JUW); June 13 near 7124 Ora Glen Court (temporary Md. T1804958); June 14 near 6100 Breezewood Court (Md. 3Z3306); and June 15 near 9113 Springhill Lane (Md. 3FB2823).

On June 11 near 6400 Ivy Lane, all tires and rims were stolen from a 2023 Honda Accord.

On June 12 near 7737 Greenbrook Drive, someone broke into a 2022 Toyota Highlander and stole items.

Located License Plates

On June 10 near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, officers located a stolen license plate reported from Virginia; charges were filed against the suspect. On June 12 near 6000 Springhill Drive, officers located a stolen license plate reported from Virginia; the suspect was charged with a criminal citation and released.

Vandalism to Auto

On June 14 at 3:25 a.m. near 7 Plateau Place, two men were seen tampering with parked cars, and a 2014 Chevy Corvette had a broken window.

On June 16 at 9:17 p.m. near 11 Crescent Road, a City of Greenbelt parking enforcement vehicle had a window destroyed.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

MPO Thomas teaches a course in de-escalation strategies to inclusion support staff counselors of the Greenbelt summer camps.

Greenbelt Man Arrested For Mandan Shooting on June 14

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The Greenbelt Police Department has arrested 26-year-old Kyle Devin Duncan of Greenbelt

known to be the suspect and later turned himself in. He is charged with first- and second-degree assault, firearm use in a felony violent crime and reckless endangerment.

Anyone with information relevant to this investigation is asked to call the Greenbelt Criminal Investigations Unit at 301-474-7200.

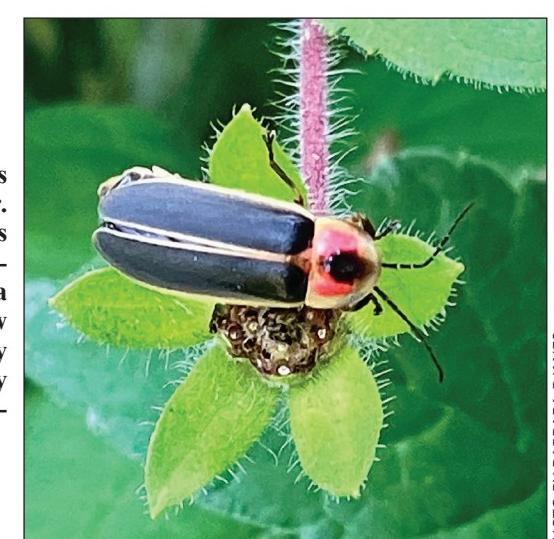


PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

Greenbelt Man Is Convicted Of Deputy's Attempted Murder

by Jessica Thompson

A Calvert County jury convicted Brandon Alexander Turner, 22, of Greenbelt with attempted first-degree murder of Master Deputy Sheriff James Flynt. The jury also convicted Turner of first-degree assault on Deputies Anthony Aranda and Tyler Bowen, as well as illegal use of a firearm in connection with these offenses. The verdicts were returned on the evening of June 11, 2024, following a seven-day trial.

On December 17, 2022, Turner stopped his vehicle on Md. Route 4 near Yellow Bank Road in Dunkirk. When deputies approached the vehicle, Turner fled, leading police on an eight-mile pursuit at speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. During the chase, Turner fired multiple shots at the deputies. The chase ended near the Walnut Creek subdivision when Flynt was able to force Turner's vehicle to crash. Flynt exited his vehicle and ordered Turner to drop his gun.

Turner fired two shots, striking Flynt in the right leg, severing his femoral artery. Due to extraordinary life-saving measures by Sheriff's deputies, EMTs, Paramedic Adam Weiss and ER staff at Calvert Health Medical Center, Flynt survived. Turner was apprehended after he fled and was found hiding in the woods.

Sentencing is scheduled on October 11, 2024, before the Honorable Andrew S. Rappaport. Turner is facing a sentence well in excess of life imprisonment.

This case was prosecuted by Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey and Deputy State's Attorney Timothy Maher.

Jessica Thompson is in the Calvert County State's Attorney's office.

Editor's note: Turner's criminal history includes assault, firearm use in a violent crime, theft and handgun offenses. Court records show Turner has lived in Greenbelt since at least 2022.



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FIRE DEPT. continued from page 10

currently have 32 graduates graduating recruitment school on July 16 and have just started 53 more recruit firefighters."

Of the summer staffing plan, McClelland said, "First and foremost I want to tell you it is based on the physical and mental impact on the members that are providing the service. Last year alone career uniform firefighters worked over 21,000 mandatory overtime hours just in the months of May and June. That's just May and June. It was projected to double that this summer. I cannot look my members in the face and say you are not going home to your families. I can't do that anymore and the chief recognized that as well." McClelland said he was happy they were "getting the people" and noted the long training period. "It's going to take us time," he said, citing an average of 30 weeks to get new firefighters and EMTs "out on the streets" and training requirements keep growing.

"This is a temporary plan. I'm going to say it again. It is a temporary plan. We realize people are worried. 'When I call 911 are we going to show up?' The answer is yes. I'm going to say it again. Yes." McClelland asserted, "These people are not being reassigned; they are detailed to reduce the mandatory callback times that we foresee for the summer." Yet, in the Fire Chief's letter to Greenbelt City Manager Josué Salmerón, dated June 7, Green used the term "reallocation" throughout and called the plan "a temporary summer staffing reallocation." McClelland spoke of the call volume that is "dramatically increasing," which is a challenge to manage with their resources. Each day, they will be moving units to different areas based on where the need is. "This is a team effort," he said. "I realize that these decisions are not easy, they're not comfortable," acknowledged McClelland, while promising to provide service to all areas. "If I see that things need to be adjusted, we will make those adjustments." The plan will be re-evaluated "through the months" and response data will be shared with officials, said McClelland.

Response

Mayor Takisha James of Bladensburg said the decisions felt "very, very last minute" and left no time for preparation. There was no time for other conversations or compromise, she complained. "Were you in conversation with the volunteers about this in advance?" she asked, to which the room at large responded with a chorus of "No!". "You have to have conversations that are affecting everyone in the open in some form or fashion ... not just telling people, 'We made this decision and it's coming up in three weeks.'"

"Understood ... Yes. We all could admit that communications could be better," McClelland said, to laughter. "The end result is, I'm here now."

"I just hope that it changes," said James, to which he replied, "I hope so, too, ma'am." Mount Rainier Councilmember Danielle Carter asked if the county would allow folks to serve as EMS only rather than requiring them also be willing to serve as firefighters. McClelland said that was on the table. "I don't understand how the career [personnel] keeps lacking and the budget keeps going up," said Carter, to which McClelland responded that there were challenges with recruitment on both sides nationwide.

Greenbelt Councilmember Rodney Roberts asked, "So, how am I supposed to feel good that my community here, my constituents that I have to worry about, are going to be protected after 11 o'clock at night and if they're going to have to wait for apparatus to come from another community? How is that protecting my community? And I understand you might have numbers, but I see the results. When I'm here at night, I see them trucks comin' and goin' and comin' and goin'.... So, I want better than what you're offering." His comments were met with applause. McClelland responded that when they see that demand they would move a unit so it is sitting there, though it might not be a Greenbelt unit. "Like I said, we're doing this just to get through the summer," he reiterated.

McClelland declined to take more questions, despite several raised hands, and said he would be in the back of the room to take questions. However, he left via a side room shortly after.

The News Review reached Prince George's County Fire/EMS Public Information Officer Alan Doubleday for further comment. Doubleday stated that the temporary summer plan will be re-evaluated in September and that they'll be evaluating the data every day. A report on how coverage is going will be sent to elected officials monthly.

The final plan was only established a week and a half ago, said Doubleday on Tuesday, June 18. Asked if communities could have been given more notice to enable them to come up with an alternative coverage plan, Doubleday said a longer timeline wasn't an option because they're so understaffed. He stressed the need for four people on a fire truck, two on an ambulance and so forth and the inability to leave a vacancy or assume a volunteer can fill in.

Questions from the News Review

County Fire/EMS Public Information Officer Alan Doubleday Responds

Q: If money for overtime was in the budget until a week and a half ago, is there an amount you're expecting to save by these measures?

A: I don't have that number on me. Honestly, it's not about money.... [In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024] we exceeded \$30 million just in overtime. One hundred fifty new firefighters are being hired in FY 2025, 32 firefighters who have just completed recruit school and 53 that started recruit school two weeks ago.

Q: Are budgetary savings in overtime expected to go toward paying new recruits?

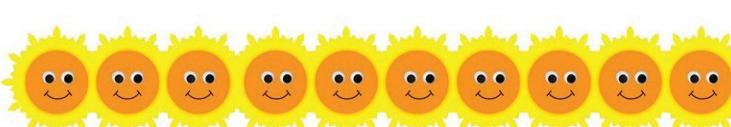
A: The budget's a difficult thing to talk about. I'm not a specialist in the budget.... We can only hire as many positions as we're allocated in the county budget. They request the ability to hire as many firefighters as they can and then the county administration approves the number, which was recently increased from 100 to 150. The Alsobrooks administration really sees the need to hire the public safety employees.

Q: Can we expect career firefighters to return to Greenbelt?

A: That is our plan once the summer staffing is done. That will be evaluated on a monthly basis and a daily basis. They're constantly moving and redeploying assets daily, based on GPS technology and which units are closest to needs. It wasn't possible to split crews and pull only part of the career staff from Greenbelt, or use volunteer staff in lieu of career staff.

Q: Is removing career staff from adjacent departments like Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights at the same time creating a "hole"?

A: Berwyn Heights is already covering the area with volunteers 75 percent of the time (3 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday and all weekend). Berwyn Heights has 109 active volunteers and only a complement of six career personnel. Everyone is going to be picking up in their call volume. The county is only getting busier. We're running nearly 600 responses a day.... It's not going to be significant for any one station.... All of our communities are always covered, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365. Due to the busy system, fire trucks from any city could be in any given location responding to calls and the next town over covering their city while their trucks are out. They move where they're needed.





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VISION ZERO continued from page 1

Greenbelt's Action Plan

Speaking to the News Review, Greenbelt's Assistant Director of Planning Jaime Fearer said the city has applied for \$200,000 in funding and plans to match it with \$50,000 if awarded (there is a 20 percent match requirement for the grant). The grant funds would be used for "planning demonstration and supplemental planning." That means that they will be used to develop the Vision Zero Action Plan for the city and create pilots and demonstrations to inform the planning process. For example, quick build demonstration projects could use stripage, signage and flexible posts, but wouldn't involve pouring asphalt or a full rebuild of roads.

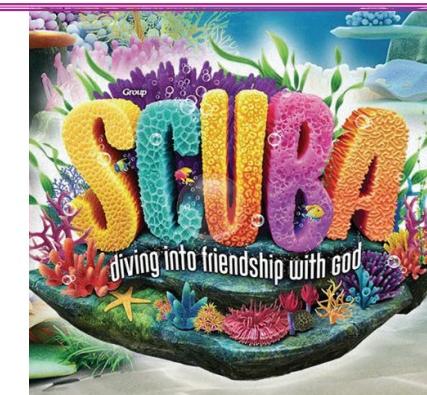
Swedish authorities focus on strategies that limit damage, addressing solid obstructions close to roads, the hazards and blind spots of pedestrian crossings and the mayhem that results if a vehicle crosses into opposing traffic. While vehicles may have become safer – with safety belts, infant car seats, rollover protection, lane guidance and airbags to name a few advances – the environment they drive in has become, if anything, more dangerous. There are more cars on the road, more traffic lights and intersections and more high-speed roads.

Progress is Uneven

Progress isn't perfect. In the U.K., for example, an attempt to create a standard 20 mph speed limit in urban and suburban areas caused a ruckus and was derailed. However, research shows that in congested areas, lower speed limits actually result in faster travel times because they reduce traffic snarls and delays resulting from overtaking, stop-start traffic and fender-benders. It's that old parable of the tortoise and the hare again.

Greenbelt's Roads

Greenbelt is only responsible for part of its roads, with the county and state both having sovereignty over the more major routes and each authority with its own ideas. Nonetheless, Vision Zero has the potential to increase safety for Greenbelt residents, especially if pursued collaboratively by all stakeholders. At the time of the April 3 budget worksession at which it was discussed, staff were preparing a grant for federal funding of a "Comprehensive Safety Action Plan" that would be Greenbelt's Vision Zero action plan.



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Obituaries continued from p.4

Joyce, the youngest daughter, along with older sister Doris and middle brother Richard (Dick), attended Greenbelt Center School and Greenbelt High School. It was during elementary school she received the name "little bits" as a moniker for her size.

Gymnastics and chorus were two of her early pastimes. During high school, while World War II was in full swing, kids of that day were taught plane spotting as a skill that helped the war effort at home. Upon graduation in June 1946, she entered the workforce at the Veterans Administration.

It was there she met and married Leonard Edward Mangum of Bladensburg on October 4, 1947, in Hyattsville. They moved from 13 Court to raise a family, then shuttled around various Greenbelt apartments and the Hollywood subdivision of College Park.

As the Mangum family grew, they moved back to 13 Court, unit R, with their two sons, Terry and Randall. There they welcomed three more children, Diane, Bruce and Douglas into the fold. Joyce then became a beacon of light and love to all the neighborhood, adults and children alike. Her open-door hospitality and concern mirrored her parents who remained across the court from where she grew up. As her husband fulfilled his role as provider outside the home, Joyce provided the role of mother, homemaker, teacher, nurse, disciplinarian, cook, friend and neighbor, centered inside the home.

Outside the home she volunteered at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church. She helped with electioneering, provided encouragement at the local ballfields rooting for her kids and their friends. During this time, her parents relocated to Tampa, Fla., where the family went to visit every other year. After her parents became ill, she and her husband traveled to be their caregivers until their last days.

One of Joyce's biggest tests in life was that of taking care of her oldest son after an automobile accident where he was critically injured and wheelchair-bound as a paraplegic. She nursed him back to health. As the house became an empty nest, Joyce became more and more involved in the Methodist Church women's ministry, both locally and nationally. She became treasurer as well as holding other offices. She volunteered with Meals On Wheels and then became caregiver to her husband when he fell ill. In January 1994, the love of her life died after years of the hospice care she provided.

Joyce found herself living alone for the very first time in her life at the age of 65. She then transitioned as a widow by continuing to volunteer at church and in the neighborhood. It seems that is when her lifelong love of games and camaraderie kicked in. She was very competitive and loved playing cards and dominoes and other board games with anyone wishing to learn or perfect



PHOTO COURTESY JOYCE LORRAINE

Four generations of Mangums

their skills. She loved puzzles, both jigsaw and crosswords, and watching TV game shows with her family and neighbors. Joyce also organized a court movie night (musicals and romances) which branched out to more than one night a week as they then would also watch TV shows about renovating and home makeovers. She spoke wonderfully about the opportunity to work at Linens and Things in Greenway Center as she became a valuable member of the workforce into her 70s.

Joyce was a terrific baker, which came from a love of chocolate and sweets that was passed on to her children through cookies, pies and cakes. Though Joyce started out as a shy and introverted child and newlywed, she soon became a voice of acceptance and welcoming throughout her years as the matriarch of the Mangums and their 13 Court residence.

She lost many of her friends, classmates, neighbors, church congregants and relatives and felt the pain of loneliness as well as arthritis as she aged. Occasionally she made new friends and continued to thrive into her 90s.

Joyce was most comfortable taking care of others and making sure they got what they needed. She was selfless and giving, both financially, emotionally and

with her time. If one dropped by on any given day, she would find time to have both short and long conversations while sharing stories, but mostly listening. She said one of her favorite things was to see children playing around the neighborhood. Joyce brought a lot of joy to a lot of people. She spent her last days perfectly as she was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and kidney failure. She stated, "I got old all of a sudden," after this diagnosis.

Wanting to remain in her house until her last days, family brought her home with support from hospice. Joyce was able to see her youngest son's second marriage, mustering up strength to attend in person and captivating all those in attendance with her smile and kind words. Celebrating her birthdays in 2018 (90) and last October in 2023 (95), will remain a highlight and joyful memory of Joyce's incredible life journey. She served her God well, she loved her husband deeply and cherished and nurtured her children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren with a vast amount of love and attention.

- The Mangum children

Connie Schwan

Constance "Connie" Nadine Thomas Schwan, 81, died Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at Berkeley Springs Healthcare Center. She was born April 9, 1943, in Baltimore, to the late Arthur Thomas and Constance Nadine Hines Thomas.

Connie lived in a GHI honeymoon cottage when she was young and single. She married Paul Schwan, who grew up in Greenbelt. As a married couple, they lived in Greenbelt apartments, then GHI, eventually moving into the large GHI home with a basement on Crescent Road, where Paul grew up. Paul

is the son of Charles Schwan, a Greenbelt city councilmember for many years.

Connie is survived by her husband; goddaughter, Sarah Grace Welsh; niece, Kymberly Cant; and many fur babies: Dutchess, Blacky, Sootie, Big Guy, Move,

You Too, DK, Pooter and many more. She was preceded in death by one sister, Barbara Sanford.

Services and interment will be private, with arrangements by Brown Funeral Home. Online condolences may be offered at BrownFuneralHomesWV.com.

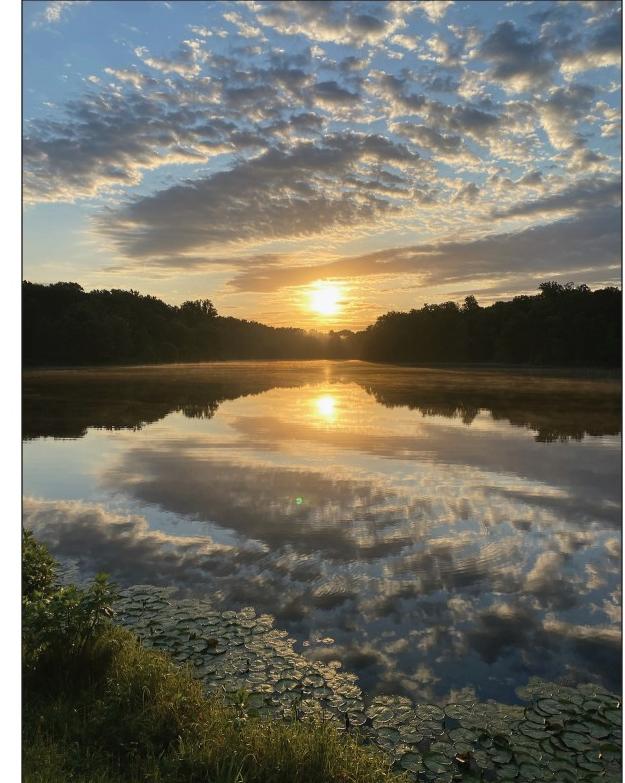


PHOTO BY MAUREEN LAMASNEY

Morning reflections at Greenbelt Lake on June 7.

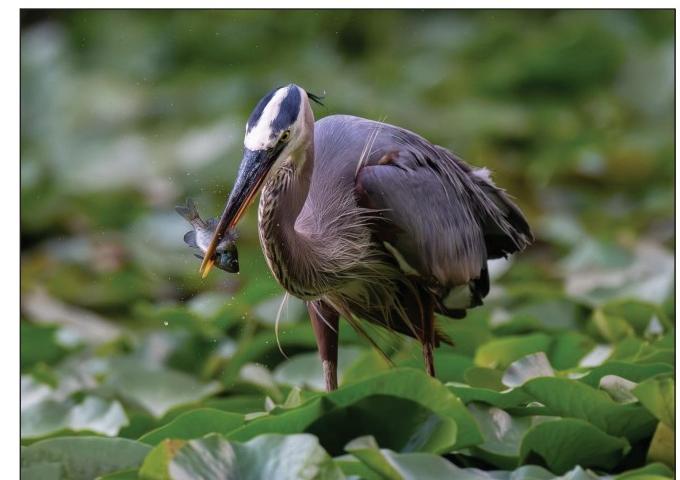


PHOTO BY KEN LOO

A heron catches a fish at the Lake.

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MOWATT PRESENTS SCUBA – Dive into a relationship with God. See page 12.

YARD/MOVING SALES

YARD SALE – June 22 and 23 at 8045 Alloway Lane, Beltsville, furniture, household items, rugs knickknacks, tools and much more!

4th of July Publica-tion Deadlines

The News Review will be printed one day early, on Wednesday, July 3.



Our office hours and deadlines will all shift one day earlier to accommodate the holiday print schedule.

Articles/photos over 700 words – Sunday, June 30, 2 p.m.

Display ads (not camera ready) – Sunday, June 30, 6 p.m.

All letters to the editor (300-word limit) – Sunday, June 30, 6 p.m.

Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story – Monday, July 1, 2 p.m.

Classified ads and camera-ready display ads – Monday, July 1, 6 p.m.

Holiday Office Hours:
Sunday 6/30 – 2 to 4 p.m.
Monday 7/1 - 2 to 4 p.m.; 7 to 8 p.m.

The News Review is grateful for everyone's help in submitting their advertisements and copy as early as possible so the special holiday schedule will work. Call us at 301-474-4131, or email our editor at ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com if there are any questions. Happy 4th of July to All!

RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Sports

ERHS 2024 Graduate Athletes Finish High School Career, Look to Their Future Goals

by Patrick Gleason

With the 2023-24 school year now finished, the high school athletic scene turns to summer practices and leagues to prepare student athletes for next year. While current high schoolers anticipate the challenges and triumphs of the coming seasons, recent graduates are set to begin new academic and athletic journeys. Eleven Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) football players will build on their successful senior season – which ended in the state semifinals – by playing collegiately. Luis Arias and Donte Howard will remain together at Bowie State University, while Robert Payton and Xavier George both selected West Liberty University. The other Raiders with college commitments are Charles Barros III (Salisbury University), Favor Bate (Merrimack College), Cole Johnson (Shaw University), Charles Beckwith III (Catholic University), Amarch Drammeh (Susquehanna University), Tristan Doy (Saint Vincent College) and Maurice McFarland (Keystone University).

Although none of the graduating ERHS girls soccer players have elected to play collegiately, they will be continuing their academic careers at an impressive array of schools, both in and out of state. Kaia Booker and Alicia Galban will be attending the University of Maryland, College Park, where Booker will be



Three ERHS Soccer seniors - Kaia Booker, Angel Ngwane and Victoria Obisesan - celebrate one of their many high school achievements as they now go on their collegiate journeys.

in the Scholars program, while Galban intends to study public health. Captain Victoria Obisesan will study biochemistry and molecular biology at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, while Angel Ngwane will pursue criminal justice at Towson University. Out of state, Olivia Gills selected Coastal Carolina while also choosing a criminal justice major. Azaria Muhammad will attend Syracuse University and major in public relations and Riley Rios chose Temple University where she will enter in a pre-law track. Finally, manager Mia Maniece – also a member of the ERHS softball team – elected to study photography at Savannah College of Art and Design. These Roosevelt graduates are poised to build on their senior success both on the field and in the classroom.

PHOTO BY VANESSA VAN DER HAVE

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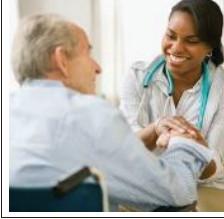
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PARADE continued from page 1

dancing, singing and playing music as the group made its way to Roosevelt Center. The march was an opportunity for residents to show off their musical and crafting talents, and also to share their pride as a part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual community. Drag performers handed out Pride stickers to the audience that formed to watch from the sidewalk and parents wore shirts showing their pride as parents of their LGBTQIA+ children.

Greenbelt Honk! Situation kept everyone in step with their eclectic mix of instruments, from

traditional ones like drums, brass and woodwinds to the unconventional, like washboards and whisks. When the parade needed to slow down to keep everyone together, the band would change the tempo and dance in place. Everyone was spirited from the rhythm, motion and vibrancy as they made their way to the center of Historic Greenbelt.

As the parade reached Roosevelt Center, the paraders mixed with the crowd. Because spirits were so high, instead of wrapping up the Greenbelt Honk! Situation gave a musical encore.



From left, Jessica O’Roark, Maya Kenny, Maeve Waters, Maren O’Roark, Corita Waters and Cameron O’Roark at the Pride Parade



CEO/TKO performs at the Pride Festival.

- Photos by
Barbara
Bjanes



A wearer’s T-shirt declares “In Pride and Protest” at the Pride Festival.



A drag king performs “Gentleman Bachelor.”

Springhill Lake Elem. Students Enjoy a Year of Creative Fun

by Rebecca Squire

As the school year winds to a close, Springhill Lake Elementary School (SHLES) students can look back on a year-long series of creative arts experiences, in addition to their academic achievements and personal milestones. Greenbelt Recreation Arts instructors enjoyed working with the students twice a month in conjunction with the afterschool program at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SHLRC) headed by Coordinators Brian Butler and Frank Jones.

Students enjoyed a wide variety of visual arts projects, funded with a grant from the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area that was authored by Arts Education Specialist Anne Gardner. Students hand-built festive clay pumpkins in the fall with ceramics instructor Judy Goldberg-Strassler. Leah Cohen taught the students to create mandalas for Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated broadly by members of the South Asian diaspora. Winter projects included ceramic penguins with Goldberg-Strassler and building model igloos with Caitlyn McGillen. Ali Everett, who teaches for Greenbelt Recreation Arts as part of a partnership with the Greenbelt Access Television (GATE), invited students to work together to create a colorful, collaborative, claymation video.

Students also enjoyed dance activities funded through a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). The grant was authored by Lisa Pellittiere, who coordinates tap instruction with the Greenbelt Dance Studio program (part of Greenbelt Recreation). A member of MSAC’s teaching artist roster, Pellittiere personally instructed the monthly dance activities which included student-generated improvisation games, upbeat footwork and jumps and choreographed routines to selections from stage and movie musicals ranging from Hamilton to Footloose to Sing.

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts program has provided after-school arts programs for SHLES students for 12 years. The series, developed and coordinated throughout its history by Gardner, shifted from the school to SHLRC in 2023. The move adds variety for after-school program participants, and supports a healthy balance between homework time and play time.

In October of 2023, lucky third-grade students didn’t have to wait for school to let out in order to participate in Greenbelt Recreation arts activities. Over the span of two days, all third graders walked to the nearby SHLRC for fun field trip workshops. With Pellittiere, students learned the choreography for a flash mob dance that they were invited to perform at the Wild Rumpus, a Greenbelt Recreation Halloween celebration. Students also worked with Nicole DeWald, arts supervisor, and Amanda Larsen, visual arts coordinator, to create whimsical headdresses using recycled cardboard.

After the field trips, a participating SHLES teacher commented, “I love the inclusion of the art elements as well as math vo-



Lisa Pellittiere teaches a dance workshop outside during the third grade field trip to Springhill Lake Recreation Center in October.



A student shows off the headdress she made during the third grade field trip to Springhill Lake Recreation Center.



A student shows off the windsock she made in an art workshop with Rachel Cross.



Shaymar Higgs, executive director of The SPACE, leads an Artful Afternoon spray painting workshop at Springhill Lake Recreation Center in May. There are now free Artful Afternoons workshops at the Rec Center on the second Sunday of the month, from 1 to 3 p.m.

cabulary (symmetrical and asymmetrical). Also, the preparation of supplies was excellent – students had everything they needed to create their project. They were given enough direction to meet the expectation of creating their crown, but also had the freedom to create.” Another teacher commented, “The activity was valuable, effective and enjoyable in a way that students were learning different contents (math/science, etc.) through dancing.”

Starting in April 2024, Greenbelt Recreation Arts expanded programming at SHLRC to provide regular opportunities for community members of all ages. Larsen has added free Artful Afternoon workshops on the second Sunday of the month, from 1 to

3 p.m. Advance sign-ups are encouraged, but walk-up guests are also welcome, while supplies last. Activities this spring have included Matisse-inspired papercuts with Barbara Joann Combs, spray painting with Shaymar Higgs and watercolor painting with Vanessa Daelemans. Artful Afternoons are a free series that originated at the Community Center, where they still continue on the first Sunday of most months. Residents of all neighborhoods are invited to participate in the workshops at either location. Artful Afternoons are supported by a grant from the MSAC, authored by DeWald.

For more information about Greenbelt’s year-round visual and performing arts programs for all ages, visit greenbeltdmd.gov/arts.

PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

PHOTO BY RACHEL CROSS

PHOTO BY AMANDA LARSEN